OUR MISSION IN CUBA.

PROCEEDINGS OF A COMMITTEE OF LAYMEN,

THEIR MEMORIAL TO THE PRESIDING BISHOP,

AND

HIS REPLY DELIVERED FROM THE CHAIR

IN REFERENCE TO THE FORMATION OF A GUILD TO FORWARD
THE MISSION OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS IN
THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

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RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP,
No. 653 LEXINGTON AVENUE,
NEW YORK, November 22, A. D. 1878.

On the afternoon of this day a Committee of Laymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America waited upon the Presiding Bishop at his house, to lay before him the following, which was formally presented and received:

MEMORIAL.

To the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, D. D., LL. D., Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church:

RT. REV. FATHER—We, the undersigned members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, having given our attention to the work appointed by the House of Bishops in the Island of Cuba, and fully appreciating the labors of the Rev. Edward Kenney, B. D., who has been in charge of the Mission since its inauguration, and knowing that the means for the successful continuance of his great work and for his support have been inadequate, and feeling also that it cannot be just or right that the double burden of doing the work, and begging his own support, should rest upon this faithful clergyman, or upon any others who may be engaged in such work, and moved by a conscientious desire to discharge our duty in this regard, come before you to ask your official sanction and aid in the formation of a Guild or some similar organization, under direction of the House of Bishops, in aid of the purposes of this Mission, and

to seek such guidance and counsel in respect thereto as we so well know you can give.

Awaiting your action in response, we are,

Yours very faithfully,

GEO. E. SIBLEY,
Diocese of New Jersey.

B. RICHARDSON,
Diocese of Long Island.

WM. P. CLYDE,
Diocese of Long Island.

GEO. WISTAR KIRKE,
Diocese of Long Island.

The Presiding Bishop then presented and read the following letter, received by him from the Bishop of Maryland:

To the Right Reverend Benjamin B. Smith, D. D., Presiding Bishop, &c.:

RT. REV. AND DEAR BROTHER—I have just received a copy of a memorial of several devout and earnest laymen of the Church, designed to be handed to you to-morrow afternoon, in hope of action in order to the maintenance of the Rev. Edward Kenney's faithful and most important work in Cuba.

In every word of that memorial my hearty and entire concurrence goes along. And as we are from the beginning necessarily better acquainted than others with the reasons, character, motives and nature of Mr. Kenney's whole work in Cuba from the beginning until now, I beg in so doing, both as his Ordinary and as your humble brother in the Episcopate of our Church, to assure you, that, in my poor judgment, no better missionary work is now being done by any presbyter of our Church, while few have any pretentions to vie with this in the immensity of prospects of goodly forest of trees of the Lord's planting, to grow from the acorn now thus deposited.

From my sick bed, in Baltimore, this 21st of November, 1878.

Your dutiful and loving friend and brother,

WILLIAM R. WHITTINGHAM.
Bishop of Maryland.

The Presiding Bishop expressed his full and entire concurrence with the views and plans of the Committee, and certified his intention of calling a meeting at an early day, at which he would present his official reply to the foregoing memorial and move in the organization of a Guild.

The Committee also received the following from the Bishop of Maryland:

BALTIMORE, November 21, 1878.

To Geo. Wistar Kirke, Esq., of the Committee:

Bishop Whittingham, having this morning received from the Rev. Mr. Kenney a copy of the designed memorial to the Presiding Bishop, to be presented to-morrow, has himself addressed a paper of similar tenor to the Presiding Bishop, and now from his sick bed ventures to intrude upon you the heartiest expression he knows how to make of his cordial and complete concurrence in your views and plans, and of his own very deep and hearty sense of obligation to you, and the other gentlemen associated with you in the good and noble work you have undertaken.

In sixty years of observation of Church work throughout the world, Bishop Whittingham believes himself to have known of none promising from such small beginnings, such transcendent abundance of future returns of spiritual fruit, as that now working by Mr. Kenney in Cuba.

W. R. WHITTINGHAM,
Bishop of Maryland.

In obedience to a call from the Presiding Bishop, a number of Laymen met in room No. 26, Bible House, on the afternoon of December 7th, 1878. The meeting was called to order by the Presiding Bishop, and after the appointment of a Secretary, the following reply was read from THE CHAIR to a memorial recently presented:

MISSION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CUBA.

ITS HISTORY.

In the fall of 1870, the Rt. Rev. Henry B. Whipple, D. D., Bishop of Minnesota, was constrained, on account of excessive labor and exposure in that northern climate, to seek relief by a visit during the winter to one of the West India Islands, and being providentially detained in Havana, he witnessed scenes, and became acquainted with facts, which moved to profoundest depths the sympathies of his Christian heart. First, perhaps, the destitution of some eight or ten thousand foreign residents, of all religious instruction; no one to care for their souls, or to perform, at frequent funerals, the sacred offices of the Church.

He soon discovered that they were almost equally destitute of suitable hospital attendance during their sickness.

Upon his return, the reports he bore moved many a sympathetic heart, and none more deeply than that of the Rt. Rev. William R. Whittingham, the venerable Bishop of Maryland. Interviews with him introduced the name of the Rev. Edward Kenney as a suitable person, would he consent to follow up the casual visit of the Bishop by a more prolonged residence in Havana. His letters, from time to time, and his frequent visits to this country

during the last six years, show that his whole heart and soul have been devoted to this work, and have kept the friends of missions well informed of the perils, sufferings and successes which have attended and crowned his efforts.

THE AIMS OF THE MISSION.

It is to supply deficiencies so deeply deplored by Bishop Whipple, attendance upon the sick and dying, and the decent and sacred interment of the dead. In his part of this work the Rev. Mr. Kenney has been aided by the hearty co-operation of foreign consuls and merchants, and also by wealthy native Cubans. It has grown to such large dimensions, and such wide distant fields are constantly opening, that no amount of pecuniary aid, likely to be realized, can supply the need. This purely humanitarian aspect of the work would meet with a readier response were it not that precisely similar claims are always clamorous at home. But, happily in this case, as in all similar cases, no good work, in any direction, is ever undertaken from purely religious motives, prompted by the love of Christ, but what, if thwarted in one direction, does not open in a more promising direction, perhaps upon a higher plane. The opportunities thus afforded of reaching, under the most affecting circumstances, the consciences of the thoughtless and administering instruction, counsel and consolation to the more serious, have known no bounds. In a place where scriptural instruction is *forbidden* and as far as possible hindered the offer of the British and Foreign Bible Society to supply our missionary with any needed number of Spanish New Testaments, and a like offer from the New York Prayer Book Society to supply our prayer book in the Spanish language—the best religious tract ever published or circulated in any language—opens a field of Gospel labor, only second

to permission and power to preach the Gospel as St Paul preached it.

AGENCIES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THESE ENDS.

It may almost literally be said we have no *agencies* and only one *agent*. A few friends, deeply impressed with the value and importance of this work, on occasion of two General Conventions, have earnestly endeavored to enlist our Board of Missions or the Foreign Committee to take this mission under their sheltering wing, as they have Mexico and Hayti; but hitherto without success. For this they doubtless have good and sufficient reasons; up to this time, the one good and sufficient reason—lack of funds.

But to draw out somewhat a comparison between the two missions among Spanish speaking people :

The Mission to Cuba originated entirely from without, and was purely humanitarian. The Mission to Mexico originated wholly from within. It began with religious men, engrosssed solely with concern for the souls of men, that they and their children might be made wise unto salvation. No one can doubt that *this* is a legitimate Foreign Missionary Work, deserving all the aid its zealous and devoted friends can render.

Aware of all this, the Rev. Mr. Kenney has spent most of his summer bringing the claims of his mission before such parishes—chiefly in New England and Canada—as were willing to listen to him; and in private interviews with several gentlemen in New York and Brooklyn, who manifested interest in his work, the result of which, thus far, has been the memorial presented to the Presiding Bishop, at his residence, and to which the above is his reply. At a subsequent proposed meeting he will recommend the formation of a Cuban Guild to carry out the views above expressed.

INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY OF OUR MISSIONARY.

A letter was addressed to the Presiding Bishop, and received by him on the day of the meeting above mentioned, by the venerable Bishop of Maryland.

It gives him pleasure hereby to express his concurrence in all the Bishop says, having of late had many opportunities of testing the justice of this testimony.

The following preamble and resolutions were then unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in the year of our Lord 1871, authorized the commencement of a Mission in the Island of Cuba, and sent out to that Island a Clergyman authorized by them to undertake and carry on the work, forming a committee of their own number to take charge of the support of the Mission, and from year to year accepting the Reports made by its Missionary, and further continuing the Mission, until, in the General Convention of 1877, a new Board of Missions was, by Canon, then passed, authorized to accept and carry out all the missionary work then undertaken and in operation by the Church at large, (the object of such Canon being, in a measure, to provide for and relieve the House of Bishops of the care of their Cuban work, as well as the other Missions of the Church); and,

Whereas, The Board of Missions have officially found it inexpedient to aid the Mission thus organized in the Island of Cuba by an appropriation, owing to indebtedness and lack of funds to carry on that portion of the mission work of the Church,

selected by the Board for aid under the Canon of 1877;

Therefore, We several Laymen, communicants of the Church, assembled to take counsel together on the subject of such Mission in the Island of Cuba, the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, D.D., LL.D., Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in the chair, and seeking his counsel and advice, have

Resolved, That we organize a Guild to consist of Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who may feel interested in aiding the Mission in the following objects, viz:

First—To diffuse information and create interest in this work among all persons who desire the moral and religious welfare of those who are, or may hereafter become, residents of or visitors to the Island of Cuba, viz:

(*a.*) All permanent foreign residents, irrespective of nationality.

(*b.*) The officers and seaman composing the merchant marine.

(*c.*) The officers, seamen, and all other who may, by the Providence of God, be lying sick at our Foreign Hospital.

(*d.*) All coolies and other chinese resident on the Island.

(*e*). All negroes, unbaptized and uncared for.

Second—To encourage the practice of piety, virtue and charity on the Island of Cuba, and by our aid to reach the ignorant, assist the weak, succor the distressed, console the afflicted, relieve the poor, visit the sick and help by every means in our power in the securing Christian burial to the dead.

Third—To secure financial aid to carry on the work of this Mission and for the following additional purposes:

(*a.*) To provide for the support and education of

candidates for Holy Orders who may from time to time, by the Grace of God, be raised up for this work.

(*b.*) To furnish and supply the chapels at Havana and at other points on the Island where services of the Church may be established, with suitable furniture, books, plate, &c.

(*c.*) To aid in the establishment of an English high school or college in the City of Havana for the instruction chiefly of the children of American and English residents on the Island, and schools there and elsewhere on the Island, as may be found needed and feasible.

(*d.*) To provide a suitable cemetery—a God's acre—where our dead may be buried, and

(*e.*) To provide a special fund for the support and maintenance of the Clergy who may be stationed on the Island as Missionaries, to be placed solely under the direction and disbursement of the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

Fourth—To secure and forward medical and other stores and supplies for use in the foreign hospital at Havana and elsewhere on the Island as needed.

Fifth—To collect and forward religious and moral literature for the use of those for whose benefit and relief this Guild has been effected, as well as to replenish from time to time the hospital library.

Sixth—To use every lawful influence in the endeavor to gain permission to build a church or churches in the Island of Cuba.

Also the following:

Whereas, Under the sanction of the Presiding Bishop and other Bishops of the Church, our present movement for the sustentation of the Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Island of Cuba has been undertaken and carried to the present status, and

Whereas, The work proposed to be done seems in some measure allied to the work carried on elsewhere by the Board of Missions of the Church; and,

Whereas, The Board of Managers for Missions is to meet in regular session in New York, on Tuesday the 10th day of December, 1878;

Resolved, That a Committee of two Laymen be appointed by the Chair, to wait upon the Board of Managers of Missions, when in session, Tuesday next, and to lay before it an account of our proceedings to date, for the purpose of informing the Board officially of what is being done in respect to the Missions in the Island of Cuba.

Also, *Resolved*, That the Chair appoint a Committee of three Laymen to arrange:

A time and place for a subsequent meeting, agreeable to the Presiding Bishop.

To print for that meeting what is necessary.

To invite the Bishops, Clergy and Laity, and others as deemed advisable.

To give such publicity to the meeting as may be proper, and

To report at that meeting a plan of organization, and a constitution and by-laws to govern the Guild.

The foregoing is a true copy from the minutes,

BENJ. BOSWORTH SMITH, D.D., LL.D.
Presiding.

GEO. WISTAR KIRKE,
Secretary.